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## NOTES.

### THE TOPOGRAPHY OF SPARTA AND THE BUILDING OF EPIMENIDES.

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In his report on the excavations carried on by the School at Sparta in the spring in 1892,<sup>1</sup> Dr. Waldstein says: "The most important discovery . . . was that of the circular building which I believe can, without a doubt, be identified with the building mentioned by Pausanias, III, 12-9, in the immediate neighborhood of the Skias," and which Pausanias says was thought to have been erected by Epimenides (2d half VII cent. B. C.). Dr. Waldstein regarded this discovery as of double importance, first on account of the circular form and early date of the structure, and, secondly, because it gives, finally, a fixed point of departure for the study of the topography of Sparta. The site was then, however, only partially excavated.

During the autumn of 1892, I undertook a topographical study of the site of ancient Sparta, which was finished in January, 1893, and is published, as then written, in a previous number of the JOURNAL (VIII, pp. 335-373). I here opposed the identification of this "circular" structure with the building of Epimenides, and for my reasons will refer to pp. 341-342. It seemed to me that it was the base of the colossal statue of Demos, described by Pausanias (III, 11, 9) as facing the Agora, and I predicted that "further excavation will reveal the fact that this was not a round platform, but a sort of semicircular retaining-wall, erected with the object of giving the huge image a secure and elevated position close to the Agora and overlooking it."

In the spring of 1893, the excavations were renewed, and the site of the structure entirely cleared, as is shown by the report of Mr. Meader in the JOURNAL (pp. 410-428), with additional remarks by Dr. Waldstein. Neither writer questions the identification with the circular building of Epimenides. Dr. Waldstein continues to call the structure circular, and regards the identification as natural. Although Mr. Meader expressed no doubt, it seems to me that his careful report shows almost conclusively that this was (1) not a circular but a semicircular structure, and (2) not a tholos, but a retaining-wall in the

<sup>1</sup> *Thirteenth Annual Report of the Archaeological Institute of America*, pp. 74-76.

centre of whose radius a colossal statue stood, of which the base and one thumb have been found.

Mr. Meader states that it is undoubtedly a "retaining-wall," and in one case calls it semicircular. The plan as given in Fig. 17 is restored on the supposition of a circular structure. The fact is, however, that the wall, as it remains, is about a perfect semicircle directly facing the Agora. There is one small piece of wall, marked *ll* on the plan, which comes on the line which the old wall would have followed had it formed a continuous circle; but this bit of wall, according to the report, is very late, and the bricks and mortar used in it show that it does not belong to the original structure. It may be argued that, though there are now no traces of the continuation of the line of the semicircle, the other half of the supposed circle might at some time have been completely obliterated. A strong argument, however, against this, is the fact that at one end of the semicircle the wall stops without any sign of a break and is joined at an angle to a bit of contemporary wall which extends but a short distance when it is swallowed up in a little Byzantine church. The finish of the masonry at this point appears to exclude the coming in of another part of the segment of the circle. To sum up, there is no fact brought out in the Report which does not favor my hypothesis that we have in this structure the retaining-wall and base of the colossal statue of Demos. Of course this is of importance in the determination of the topography of Sparta.

N. E. CROSBY.

#### A PRIMITIVE DOME WITH PENDENTIVES AT VETULONIA.

I wish to call the attention of students of the history of architectural forms to the domical structure discovered by Cav. Falchi at Vetulonia, in the artificial tumulus called *La Pietrera*. A full account of the circumstances of its discovery, of the character and contents of the mound, and of the connection with surrounding examples and classes of tombs has been already given in Vol. VIII, No. 4, of this JOURNAL (pp. 620-29), as well as in this number, in the *News*. I will refer, therefore, for details, to these reports, which are condensed from Cav. Falchi's account in the *Notizie degli Scavi*.

The general features and arrangement of this hypogeum or domical tomb are analogous to a number of the Mycenæan funerary structures of the same kind. That is to say, it is built in the midst of an artificial mound, is reached by a long passage-way, has secondary chambers connected with it and is surmounted by a dome constructed of hori-